



DNREC—Site Investigation and
Restoration Section
391 Lukens Drive
New Castle, Delaware 19720
Phone: 302-395-2600
Fax: 302-395-2601

Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control

DNREC and DHSS-Division of Public Health Protect Drinking Water in Ellendale

Ellendale Workshop at Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church **August 13, 2013 from 6-8pm (see agenda on back)**

The Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) and the Department of Health and Social Services – Division of Public Health (DPH) will hold a workshop at the Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church located at 18211 Beach Highway in Ellendale, DE 19941. The workshop will provide residents in the area with the most recent information concerning:

- Environmental investigations in the vicinity of Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church—2009 to date;
- Private well sampling (nitrates) associated with the justification for municipal water distribution—October 2009; and,
- DPH Cancer Study results in the Ellendale area.

History

In Feb. 2009, the DPH-Office of Drinking Water (ODW) tested the drinking water at Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church, located on Rt. 16 in Ellendale, and discovered that it was contaminated with methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE), benzene, and 1,2-dichloroethane above safe drinking water levels. Further testing by DPH-ODW indicated that a private well located nearby in a new residential development on Pin Oak St. also contained MTBE above safe drinking water standards.

DPH-ODW notified DNREC and provided bottled water to the impacted locations. DNREC and DPH-ODW staff met with the Board of Trustees of the Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church to discuss the contamination, a path forward and to answer questions. Also in Feb. 2009, carbon treatment filters were installed at the Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church and the Pin Oak Street residence to ensure safe drinking water.

In addition, the two agencies coordinated testing the drinking water at a total of 17 homes and businesses in the area including two day care centers. Trace amounts of MTBE were found in several water samples; however, the levels detected were well below the state safe drinking water standard. The sampling results were forwarded to the property owners in April 2009. A new deeper, replacement well was completed at the church in Oct. 2009, to continue to ensure safe drinking water for congregants. Additional rounds of private well water samples were collected by the ODW in late 2009, 2010, and 2013. Based on the results, a carbon filtration system was installed at a second residence located on Beach Highway in March 2013.

DNREC conducted soil and groundwater investigations at the J&H Salvage Yard and Ellendale Market Sites in April and May 2009, and has overseen additional investigation by the potentially responsible party to determine the source and extent of the contamination since 2010. During March-May 2013, DNREC conducted an initial groundwater investigation on the Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church property and the Ingram property to the east.

Ellendale Workshop

Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control and
Department of Health and Social Services – Division of Public Health
Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church
18211 Beach Highway
Ellendale, DE 19941

August 13, 2013 from 6-8pm

AGENDA

- 6:00 – 6:05** Introductions and Opening Remarks
(Christina Wirtz—DNREC Outreach Ombudsman)
- 6:05 – 6:20** Environmental Investigations in the Vicinity of Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church
2009 to Date (Robert Asreen—DNREC Project Manager)
- 6:20 – 6:35** Private Well Sampling Completed for Nitrates
Justification for Municipal Water Distribution—October 2009
(Ed Hallock—DPH Office of Drinking Water)
- 6:35 – 6:50** DPH Cancer Study – Results in the Ellendale Area
(Dr. Paul Silverman—Associate Deputy Director, DPH)

6:50 – 7:00

General Q&A

- 7:00 – 8:00** Workshop Session (Information and Resource Tables):
- DNREC Environmental Investigation
 - DPH-Office of Drinking Water
 - DPH Cancer Study Results and Program Information

Contact Information

For more information concerning the environmental investigation, please contact
Christina Wirtz of DNREC at 302-395-2600, or by e-mail at:

Christina.Wirtz@state.de.us

Health-related questions may be directed to Lisa Henry of DHSS—Division of Public
Health at 302-744-1020, or by e-mail at:

Lisa.Henry@state.de.us